

REMARKS

As required by the Examiner, a replacement copy of the Inventor's Declaration is submitted herewith.

Two replacement sheets of drawings are submitted herewith, along with copies having the changes highlighted in red.

Regarding the drawing informalities identified by the Examiner in paragraph 3 of the Detailed Action:

- a) Paragraph 0020 is amended to remove reference numeral 30;
- b) Paragraph 0028 is amended to consistently identify reference numeral 41a, 41b as tapered surfaces;
- c) Corrected drawing sheet 1 is submitted herewith with the lead lines for steering knuckles 12 correctly shown;
- d) Applicant believes the lead lines for ref. nos. 41a and 41b are correctly shown in Figure 4, indicating the upper and lower tapered surfaces of the through hole in steering arm 20;
- e) Corrected drawing sheet 2 is submitted herewith and paragraph 0023 is amended in a manner that Applicant hopes more clearly describe the steering knuckle geometry.

The informalities in the specification identified in paragraph 4 of the Detailed Action are corrected in the written specification. The indefiniteness defects in the

claims identified in paragraph 6 of the Detailed Action are also corrected.

Regarding the substantive claim rejections: The claims are amended to recite that the invention comprises a steering knuckle with a steering arm having a through hole comprising a first tapered portion oriented toward a first side of the steering arm and a second tapered portion oriented toward a second side of the steering arm, and first and second studs having conical shank portions that engage the respective tapered portions. As described in paragraph 0028 of the Specification, this configuration has significant advantages over the prior art.

Other than Pub. No. US2003/0137120 A1 (Thompson et al.), none of the cited references teach or suggest a steering knuckle having this particular inventive configuration. Applicant submits herewith a Declaration of Prior Inventorship signed by the inventor stating that he conceived the invention recited in the amended claims prior to the effective date of the Thompson et al. reference. The present application was also filed prior to the effective date, thereby constituting a constructive reduction to practice of the invention. Applicant believes this showing of prior inventorship traverses all rejections based upon the Thompson et al. reference.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the above-identified

Docket ID 201-1448
SN 10/064,734

application is believed to be in condition for allowance in all respects, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below. Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,



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